(b)The Indian Railways is adopting the advanced technology to match with those of other countries as and when required to suit the requirement and the need. Our requirement for Rail transportation differs greatly with other advanced nations, and, accordingly, technology upgrade is done continuously as per the need.

(c) With a view to contain human factors in causing Railway accidents, psychological aptitude tests are used at the time of selection/promotion of staff in critical safety category. An automatic device to switch on locomotive flasher light has been developed and installed on locomotives. Recently anti-collision device has also been developed. Besides, following steps have been taken to avoid accidents on account of human and mechanical failures:—

(i) Track circuiting of all routes in phased manner.

(ii) Progressive increase in interlocking and provision of telephones at level-crossing gates.

Profits by New Railway Zones

424. SHRIPRASANTACHATTERJEE:

SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether newly created Railway Zones are making profits;

(b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise;

%

(c) what was the earning of Eastern Railway prior to creation of Hazipur zone;and

(d) what is the present earning of Eastern Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b)The profitability of the units under the Railways *viz.,* Zonal Railways is judged by the Operating Ratio which is the ratio of the Total Working Expenses of the Railway to the Gross Traffic Earnings. Consequent upon the creation of new Zones, the precepts forming the bases for apportionment of expenditure and earnings among the Railways are still being finalised. Pending this, the Operating Ratio of newly created Zones cannot be worked out. Operating Ratio of parent Zone will also undergo a change.

(c) The earnings of Eastern Railway prior to the creation of Hazipur Zone are as under:—

2001 -02	Rs. 3914.76 crores
2002-03 (upto Sept. 02)	Rs. 2060.40 crores

(d) Month-wise originating earnings of Eastern Railway during October to December 2002 are as under:—

For Oct. 2002	Rs. 139.66 crores
For Nov. 2002	Rs. 142.47 crores
For Dec. 2002	Rs. 155.61 crores

Late running of trains

†425. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) number of trains which reached their destinations on time which reached late in the year 2002 and till date;

(b) whether any responsibility has been fixed for trains running late; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The punctuality of trains is maintained in terms of a percentage. During the year 2002 (April to December), 90.8% trains reached their destinations right time.

(b) and (c) Responsibility is being fixed against the staff, where necessary, for detention to trains. During the year 2002 (April to December) 4,485 staff have been taken up.

Rail Neer

426. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to launch 'rail neer[1] facility in Railways;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.